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December 23, 2020

Thank you for subscribing to my weekly newsletter. Below you will find important federal, state and local updates from the last week curated for you in one place.

This newsletter is coming to wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As a reminder, my office is closed starting Wednesday, December 23rd, and will be closed through Monday, January 4th, 2021.

I hope you and your family have a Merry Christmas. We will see you again in January.

Should you have any questions about the information below, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please utilize email communication with our office during this time, via the email contact information at the bottom of this newsletter.

Sincerely,



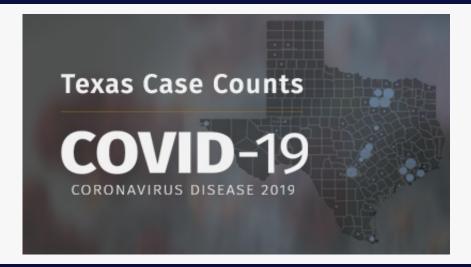


Capitol and District Office Closures

Christmas Holiday Office Closure

Both the Capitol Office in Austin and the District office in Kingwood will be closed for the Christmas holiday from Wednesday, December 23rd through Monday, January 4th, 2021. Please allow 24 hours after our offices reopen to respond to all correspondence. Correspondence will be responded to in the order in which they were received.

DSHS: COVID-19 Case Dashboard



DSHS Holiday Gathering Reminders



If you do gather with others, take steps to protect everyone:

- Talk with guests ahead of time about the precautions everyone should be taking.
- Limit the number of people who get together.
- Wear a mask with multiple layers that completely covers your nose and mouth.
- Keep six feet between people who don't live together.
- Gather and eat outside. If you must be inside, open windows to improve ventilation.
- Have guests bring their own food rather than sharing dishes and utensils.
- Frequently clean and disinfect items and surfaces touched by multiple people.

Texas Capitol To Reopen January 4th



Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott

Texas Capitol To Re-Open January 4th

At a time when many state capitols, including the U.S. Capitol, are closed, Governor Greg Abbott, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dennis Bonnen announced today that the Texas Capitol will re-open on January 4th.

Read more

gov.texas.gov

Texas to receive 620,000 doses in second week of COVID-19 vaccine distribution

Texas to Receive 620,000 Doses in Second Week of...

The Texas Department of State Health Services is instructing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ship COVID-19 vaccine to more than 1,100 providers in 185 Texas counties over the next week. The CDC will deliver 460,500 doses of the...

Read more

www.dshs.texas.gov

People 65 and Older or With Certain Medical Conditions in Next Phase for COVID-19 Vaccine

People 65 and Older or With Certain Medical Conditions...

The state of Texas will prioritize people who are at the greatest risk of severe disease and death from COVID-19 for the next phase of vaccination. More than 70 percent of COVID-19 deaths in Texas have occurred in people 65 and older, and...

Read more

www.dshs.texas.gov

COVID-19 Vaccine: Fact Sheet

Key Assumptions for COVID-19 Vaccine Availability



Limited doses are now available, but supply will increase in early 2021



Two vaccines available under Emergency Use Authorization issued by the FDA



Cold chain storage and handling requirements are likely to vary from refrigerated to ultra-cold frozen



Two doses from same manufacturer seperated by 21 or 28 days, will be needed for immunity for most COVID-19 vaccines

Texas Guiding Principles to Vaccine Distribution



Protecting health care workers who fill a critical role in saving lives



Protecting front-line workers who provide critical services and are preserving the economy



Protecting vulnerable populations who are at greater risk of severe COVID-19 disease and death



Mitigating health inequities due to factors such as demographics, poverty and insurance status



Data-driven allocations that allow for flexibility for local conditions



Geographic diversity that considers balanced access in urban and rural areas



Transparency with the public and seeking public feedback

Weekly Allocation Process



COVID-19 Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel (EVAP)

- · Appointed panel of external and internal subject matter experts
- . Make recommendations to the Commissioner of Health
- Establish prioritization of critical populations for Phase 1 and Phase 2 distribution
- . Weekly review of the data to guide allocation recommendations

LIMITED SUPPLY

WE ARE HERE

1A: Direct Care - Hospital, Long-Term Care, EMS 9-1-1, Home Health; Long-Term Care Resident
 1A: Direct Services - Outpatient, ER/Urgent Care, Pharmacies, Last Responders, School Nurses

ADDITIONAL SUPPLY

- 18: Persons 65+ or 16+ with at least one chronic medical condition, including pregnancy
 - * 1C: Under consideration * 2: Under Consideration
 - ___

BROAD SUPPLY

3: Under Consideration

* Pharmacy vaccine admin support to federal LTC program will impact State's weekly inventory

Quick Answers

Who pays for the vaccine?

 It's free to everyone, federal government pays for it. Plus, providers can seek reimbursement from insurance for administering vaccine.

Who can get vaccine?

 Eventually everyone will. There is phased distribution, starting with health care staff and LTC residents.

Is vaccine mandated?

No. It is voluntary

Do I need the vaccine if I've already had COVID-19

- . Yes. Immunity from vaccine may last longer than natural immunity.
- Do I still need to wear mask, social distance if I've had the vaccin
- · Yes. We don't know if the vaccine prevents you from spreading the virus.

COVID-19



Visit dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine for Vaccine Dashboard & more

Have Yourself a Merry Little 'Go Texan' Christmas



The GO TEXAN Market will be open year round for all your shopping needs.

While the holiday season is drawing to a close, we would like to thank you for supporting small Texas businesses and encourage you to visit us throughout the year.

With a variety of Texas-made products, The GO TEXAN market will continue to make available items for your everyday needs and those special gift-giving occasions. Visit The GO TEXAN Market today!

SHOP LOCAL. SHOP TEXAN.

Shop the GO TEXAN Market

City of Houston & Harris County Updates

Harris County Public Health Dashboard



District 127 Updates

Representative Huberty Presenting Resolution to The Village Centers



COVID-19 has challenged the Village Centers like so many and we need you, our extended community to consider making a gift of \$20 today to support our 2020 Vision Campaign. Please help us reach our \$20,000 goal - we are getting so close. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of these very special people.

Happy Holidays and a Healthy New Year!



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Email Ryan

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